











MODERN RUSSIAN POETRY





# MODERN RUSSIAN POETRY

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

SELECTED AND TRANSLATED WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

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*///*

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TO  
MY FATHER





## PREFACE

THIS book forms the Russian section of a more extensive Slavonic anthology which has been in progress for some years, and, as far as it has been completed, includes representative selections from the modern poetry of the Poles, Czechs, and Serbs.

The disadvantages associated with all anthologies are increased in the case of an anthology of translated verse, where the choice of the contents is affected not only by the translator's personal leanings, but also by the suitability of any particular poem for translation into another language. As regards the present volume, it is admittedly the merest outline, to be filled in later, as circumstances may permit. But it is hoped that this collection, in spite of such obvious shortcomings as have been indicated, will convey a fairly adequate idea of the chief features in modern Russian poetry, a branch of Russian literature which has so far received very little serious attention in this country.

On the subject of verse-translation there is a great divergency of opinion, and it is not proposed to discuss the matter at length in this preface. In the main, the translator has considered it his duty to produce renderings which, in themselves, are reasonably good English verse. At the same time, an endeavour has been made to give the meaning of the originals as closely as the restrictions of rhyme and rhythm will permit. The character of the original metre has been retained in

almost every case. In the Russian text the natural tonic accent has been indicated.

Some of these renderings first appeared in *The New Age*, and are reprinted in this collection by kind permission of the Editor, whom the translator takes this opportunity of thanking. It is also a duty and a pleasure to express gratitude to Mr. Alexander Bakshy, who read the proofs of the book, and offered valuable suggestions and criticisms while it was passing through the press.

P. S.

LONDON.

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## INTRODUCTION

THE more recent developments in the history of Russian poetry may be regarded as a revival following upon a period of depression and stagnation. In the following sketch an attempt will be made to trace briefly the varying stages in its progress during the nineteenth century, before the achievements of contemporary writers are discussed in any detail.

The first important epoch in the history of Russian poetry during the nineteenth century is associated with the names of Pushkin and Lermontov. Pushkin, in particular, founded a poetical school, among the members of which were such men as Vyazemsky, Delvig, Yazykov, and Baratynsky. This was the golden age of Russian poetry, the popularity of which was enhanced by Pushkin's relations with the Court.

Pushkin died in 1837, Lermontov in 1841. These dates mark the beginning of a decline in the vogue which poetical literature had been enjoying. It rapidly sank from one extreme of favour to the other, and before long lyric verse was regarded as an inferior branch of literature, and was neglected by readers and critics alike. Yet, in spite of these adverse conditions, there was not a complete lack of lyric poets. About the middle of the century, at the very time when this reaction was most marked, the tradition of the earlier years was being worthily upheld by such men as Tyutchev, Maikov, Fet, and Polonsky. The neglect of poetry was, in fact, due to the political situation. It was a period when Russian society was beginning to show symptoms of internal ferment. All men of intellectual ability were expected to employ their talents for the advancement of the political cause. This practical materialism, which rejected all

activities not serving an immediate purpose, found its warmest advocate in the person of Dmitri Ivanovitch Pisarev (1841-68), a critic with an aggressive attitude towards poetry and all purely æsthetic products. The consequence was that only those poets could flourish whose activities happened to fulfil the urgent needs of the time. Such a one was Nyekrassov (1821-77), with poems that championed the cause of the lower classes and formed an eloquent protest against the prevailing conditions. In the same way, Koltsov and Nikitin, both of peasant origin, were widely read owing to the "popular" tone of their verses. Love of the "popular" became during this period a fashion, not only in language and literature, but also in such external matters as dress and deportment.

In the eighties, Nadson (1862-87) attained remarkable success by a volume of poems in which the leading theme is sympathy for the unfortunate and oppressed. The pathetic circumstances associated with his name—above all, his early death from consumption—procured for his poems a reputation which their lachrymose rhetoric scarcely deserved; but the enthusiasm they at first aroused was followed by a period of even less merited neglect.

The nineties—critical years in many European literatures—found Russia passing through a fresh epoch of unrest, but this time the movement was to have an important artistic aspect. The study of the English Pre-Raphaelites and the French symbolists widened the poetical outlook by introducing new standards of technique and subject-matter. The language was gradually rendered capable of more subtle forms and shades of expression than had been known to the earlier poets. And this, it may be noticed, is a process through which all the rejuvenated Slavonic literatures have passed within recent years. Abundant translation from foreign literatures is a characteristic symptom of such a development, for not only is the language strengthened and enriched by this activity, but the poets themselves acquire greater linguistic and metrical skill, while a more intelligent and receptive reading-public is created. Thus, among the Czechs, Jaroslav Vrchlický and his followers accomplished



surprising results in this direction; the Poles have Jan Kasprowicz; the Serbs, Svetislav Stefanović; the Ukrainians, Ivan Franko; and even so small a race as the Wends have an analogous pioneer in Jakub Čišinski. In Russia, corresponding services were rendered by Konstantin Balmont and Valery Bryusov, and although they were not the first of the Russian modernists in point of time, the importance of their literary achievements justifies the prominence here accorded to their work.

Of these two poets, Balmont (born in 1867) was influenced specially by English poets, and his copious and spirited translations include renderings of Shelley, Whitman, and Edgar Allan Poe. Bryusov, who is six years younger than his friend, was attracted chiefly by such writers as Verlaine, Verhaeren, and Maeterlinck.

Balmont began his literary career in 1890 with a volume of verses entitled "Under the Northern Sky," and five years later he had attained a position of importance in contemporary Russian literature. As a poet, critic, and translator he has displayed remarkable energy and versatility. The leading quality of his verse is its spontaneous and impassioned nature. Poem succeeds poem, volume succeeds volume, in a regular flood of unflagging harmony. At the same time, the subject-matter is of the most varied description: rhapsodic invocations of the elements, primitive chants and runes, snatches of artless folk-song, interchange with verses full of impressionistic imagery, simple rhymes for children, and lyrics inspired by the primitive forces of the elements. "Fire, Water, Earth, and Air," he says in one of his prefaces, "are the four ruling elements, with which my spirit lives constantly in a joyful and mysterious contact." This pantheistic feeling is, by the way, peculiarly Slavonic. Otakar Theer, a Czech poet, has, for example, also dedicated hymns to the four elements; while Březina, the Czech symbolist and mystic, has written a wonderful dithyramb entitled "Song of the Sun, the Earth, the Waters, and the Secret of Fire."

Balmont's glowing lyricism, drunken, as it were, with its own rapture, sometimes lapses into self-assertive extravagances where the poet seems overwhelmed by the

splendour of his own creative powers. In one of his best-known poems he begins:

“ I am choiceness of Russian so stately of mien,  
The poets before me my heralds have been. . . . ”

This is the unaffected egotism of youth, and it also happens to be true, for it is highly probable that the literary historian of the future will date the second great epoch of Russian poetry from Balmont, just as the first is associated with the name of Pushkin. Of the great European lyric poets of modern times, Balmont is akin to Swinburne, Drachmann, d'Annunzio, and Vrchlický. His influence has altered the whole aspect of Russian poetry in the last generation.

If Bryusov's poetry lacks some of the exuberance and external brilliance which is so characteristic of Balmont, if it is often more sober and deliberate than that of the elder poet, it gains by a greater depth and unity of thought, by a more obvious scheme of ideas, by a closer contact with the realities of life. Balmont's poems are full of such words as *sky, stars, ocean, sun, shoreless spaces, clouds, peaks, silence, chaos, eternity*, the select vocabulary of the unreal; while Bryusov—probably influenced by Verhaeren—finds inspiration in the bustle of cities and the feverish life of the streets. Yet, although his subjects are frequently artificial, he does not treat them in an artificial manner. Bryusov has been specially attracted towards the French symbolists, many of whom he has translated. His versions from Maeterlinck, Verlaine, Verhaeren, d'Annunzio, and Wilde, together with a critical study of the late Latin poet Ausonius, also show in what direction his literary sympathies lie. They have exposed him to the accusation of being a scholar rather than a poet, but successive volumes of fervid and delicate verse have triumphantly vindicated him, and have shown that inspiration and industry do not mutually exclude each other. There is no denying a certain exotic tendency in some of Bryusov's poetry; but from this he has gradually freed himself more and more, so that in his most recent volumes he has attained an admirable clarity of style. Finally, let it be mentioned that Bryusov

ranks high as a Russian prose writer. Two of his novels in particular—"The Fiery Angel," dealing with the Renaissance period, and "The Altar of Victory," a product of Bryusov's late Latin studies—would represent modern Russian fiction far more worthily than the majority of the recent numerous importations.

The poetical movement inaugurated by Balmont and Bryusov had its centre at Moscow, with the review *Vyessy* (The Balance) as its official organ. The epithet "decadent" has been applied to these writers, but in Russian this implies nothing further than modernity of thought and cultivation of advanced artistic principles.

A few years before the establishment of this literary centre, another group of writers had begun to develop similar activities in the Russian capital, and to publish their works in the *Severny Vyestnik* (Northern Herald). The chief members of this group—Merezhkovsky, his wife, known as an author under her maiden name of Zinaida Hippus, Minsky, and Sologub—followed, in the main, religious tendencies, which can be traced back to the influence of Vladimir Solovyóv (1853-1900), philosopher and poet. Solovyóv, whose name is associated with various religious controversies—he was a champion of Catholicism—is sometimes regarded as the source of Russian symbolism. And it is significant that although Merezhkovsky (b. 1866) is more prominent as a novelist and critic than as a poet, his first published work was a volume of poems entitled "Symbols." It cannot be said, however, that Merezhkovsky as a poet has passed through any clearly marked stages of development. His poetry reflects rather those ideas which have found more ample expression in his other writings, to which they furnish an eloquent commentary.

Zinaida Hippus (b. 1870), who, like her husband, is also a prominent novelist, has shown from her earliest works a leaning towards the abstruse and metaphysical. In her verses this is even more strongly pronounced than in her other writings. The language of her poems is often beautiful, but often, too, they contain hazily mystical thoughts expressed with an abundance of rather highly coloured imagery. The same kind of hysterical affecta-



tion is characteristic of other Russian poetesses. All that is morbid, overwrought, and fantastic in the Russian spirit seems to become unpleasantly accentuated in the work of these feminine writers. Thus the poems of Myrrha Alexandrovna Lokhvitskaya (1869-1905), to mention only one of several, are full of noisy and unrestrained declamation, with frequent touches of feverish eroticism.

Nicolai Maximovitch Minsky (b. 1855), whose real name is Vilenkin, began his career with poems which lead back to the tradition of Nadson. Their markedly individual style and harmonious language gained for Minsky a popularity which began to diminish when he turned his attention towards more purely æsthetic ideals. Later still, he attained a fresh stage in his development, as a poet of religious mysticism. At one time he founded, together with Gorky, a socialistic daily paper, but the venture soon came to an end, partly through the action of the authorities, partly also because of the lack of agreement between Minsky and his socialistic colleagues. Minsky is essentially a poet of transition, and, as such, he has come to occupy a precarious standing among his contemporaries. The revolution of 1905 affected his work critically, leading him, as it did, into such outbursts of unbalanced rhetoric as the "Workmen's Hymn."

Fedor Sologub (pseudonym for Teternikov, b. 1863) is a poet of the decadent school in the narrower acceptance of the word. As in his novels and short stories, so also in his poems, he is almost entirely absorbed by contemplation of the abnormal, the morbid, and the perverse. But the qualification of this statement should not be overlooked, for it is possible to overstate this aspect of the case. Professor Vengerov declares, for instance, that "Sologub's lyrics and his prose form a downright hymn to death." And in another passage the same critic says, after emphasizing the fact that this attitude on Sologub's part is unaffected and sincere: "Sologub's creative spirit is dominated by eternal twilight, and not a single sunbeam illumines this subterranean world. In the work of Sologub, death, madness, and sensuality are entangled in one awful nightmare." A criticism of this kind ignores

the pure and hopeful side of Sologub's work, which, though not prominent, is nevertheless expressed emphatically enough in such charming verses as the "Northern Triolets" and, in fact, throughout the volume of poems called "Kindred Earth." Even in his fiction Sologub sometimes writes with a playful fancy of which the stories hitherto translated into English give no hint. But it must be admitted that the main body of Sologub's work represents the tragic lack of harmony between ideals and reality, and is, as a result, steeped in despair and loathing. It is the metaphysical strain often induced by this attitude which connects him with what may be called the Merezhkovsky group. But the bonds which unite him to other poets are slender; the main impression produced by his verses is one of morose isolation.

All these poets have, in varying degrees, come under foreign influences. In this respect Ivan Bunin (b. 1870) cannot be assigned to one or other of the groups hitherto dealt with, for his verses show no traces of the later developments of Russian poetical style. He is more typically Slavonic than any of the modernists, although he himself is modern in his impressionistic manner of depicting the various aspects of the typical Russian landscape. The influence of folk-song, which even in the less obviously national poets has left considerable traces, is very marked in Bunin's verses. He has also written stories of Russian country life, similar in spirit to his delicate rhymes, and, on a larger scale, a realistic novel the scenes of which are laid in rural Russia in the years immediately following the revolution. As a translator, Bunin is best known by his metrical version of Longfellow's "Hiawatha." In November, 1912, he celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his literary beginnings.

The summary manner in which the remaining poets must be treated is not always in proportion to the value of their achievement. There is, for example, Alexander Block, whose verses are distinguished by their devout and austere tone; the search for an unattained ideal is often expressed in the symbolism of mediæval chivalry. Only bare mention, too, can be made of Vyatcheslav Ivanov, whose philosophic verses are exquisitely polished

and harmonious, with deliberate and effective lapses into an archaic style. Another of the younger poets of distinction is Andrey Byely, author also of a remarkable novel, "The Silver Dove," which follows worthily in the tradition of Gogol. For the present, bare mention alone must suffice for such poets as Kuzmin, Voloshin, Annensky, Baltrushaitis, and Count Alexis Tolstoy—Tolstoy III., as he is called; he has reanimated popular legends and traditions in verses that are essentially modern in technique.

Less than twenty years ago, Balmont and Bryusov were looked upon as bold innovators, before whom none of the most cherished poetical traditions were safe. Now a younger generation of poets has arisen, who regard the symbolists and modernists generally as conventional and academic. Among these youngest poets there is a good deal of mere extravagance and eccentricity. In some cases there is undoubtedly more than this: Sergey Gorodetsky, for instance, has written powerful verses, the most effective of which are those based upon old Russian mythology. And perhaps behind Igor Severyanin's crude and violent attempts at originality there is real talent, which will develop with increasing maturity. As for the rest, they must, for the present, remain anonymous.

P. SELVER.



MODERN RUSSIAN POETRY

# Константи́нь Дми́триевичъ Ба́льмонтъ

## 1. ВОДА.

Отъ капли росы, что трепещетъ, играя  
Огнёмъ драгоценныхъ камней,  
До блѣдныхъ просторовъ, гдѣ, вдаль убѣгая,  
Вѣнчается пѣною влага морская  
На глади бездонныхъ морей,  
Ты всюду, всегда, неизмѣнно-живая,  
И то изумрудная, то голубая,  
То полная красныхъ и желтыхъ лучей,  
Оранжевыхъ, бѣлыхъ, зеленыхъ и синихъ,  
И тѣхъ, что рождаются только въ пустыняхъ  
Въ волненьи и пѣни безмѣрныхъ зыбей,  
Оттѣнковъ, что видны лишь избраннымъ взорамъ,  
Дрожаній, сверканій, мельканій, которыми  
Нельзя подыскать отражающихъ словъ,  
Хоть въ словѣ бездонность оттѣнковъ блистаетъ,  
Хоть въ словѣ красивомъ всегда расцвѣтаетъ  
Весна многоцвѣтныхъ цвѣтовъ.

Вода безконечные лики вмѣщаетъ  
Въ безмѣрность своей глубины,  
Мечтанье на зыбяхъ различныхъ качаетъ,  
Молчаньемъ и пѣньемъ душѣ отвѣчаетъ,  
Уводитъ сознаніе въ сны.

Богатыми были, богаты и нынѣ  
Просторы лазурно-зеленой Пустыни,  
Рождающей міръ островной.  
И Море—всё Море, но въ вольномъ просторѣ  
Различно оно въ человѣческомъ взорѣ  
Качается грёзой-волной.

# Konstantin Dmitriyevitch Balmont

## 1. WATER.

FROM droplets of dew that aquiver are throwing  
The lustre of jewels around,  
To the pallor of spaces, where, distantly flowing,  
The wave of the ocean its foam-wreath is strowing  
O'er seas that no plummet can sound,  
Thou art everywhere, ever, life changelessly glowing,  
Now emerald-tinted, now azurely showing,  
Now in ruby and amber the waters abound,  
In orange, white, green, and in dusky-blue splendour,  
And in such as the deserts alone can engender  
In the heaving and chanting of tides without bound,—  
In tints only seen by the choicest of gazes,  
As they tremble and sparkle and dazzle, their mazes  
No words can be culled to reflect:  
Though the word has its tints with unquenchable gleaming,  
Though the word that is comely with bloom ever teeming,  
A spring-tide of hues has bedecked.

The water has guises of infinite seeming  
In zones that are boundlessly deep;  
Its multiple billows are cradled in dreaming,  
The spirit with muteness and tune of its streaming,  
It answers and lulls into sleep.

Rich of old have they been, and rich still are the spaces  
Where deserts stretch onward in azure-green traces,  
And islands have birth in their shoals.  
And Ocean, still Ocean, unfettered it ranges,  
But man ever sees how it changes and changes,  
And billowy visions unrolls.



Въ различныхъ скитаньяхъ,  
 Въ иныхъ сочетаньяхъ,  
 Я слышалъ сказанія бурь,  
 И знаю, есть разность въ мечтаньяхъ.

Я видѣлъ Индійское море, лазурь,  
 Въ нёмъ волнъ голубые извивы,  
 И Красное море, гдѣ ласковъ кораль,  
 Гдѣ розовой краскою зыбится валъ,  
 И Жёлтое, водныя нивы,  
 Зелёное море, Персидскій заливъ,  
 И Чёрное море, гдѣ буюнъ приливъ,  
 И Бѣлое, призракъ красивый.  
 И всюду я думалъ, что всюду, всегда,  
 Различно-прекрасна Вода.

## 2. МОЙ ПѢСНОПѢНЬЯ.

Въ моихъ пѣснопѣньяхъ журчанье ключей,  
 Что звучать всё звончѣй и звончѣй.  
 Въ нихъ жёнственно-страстные шопоты струй,  
 И дѣвическій въ нихъ поцѣлуй.

Въ моихъ пѣснопѣньяхъ застывшіе льды,  
 Безпредѣльность хрустальной воды.  
 Въ нихъ бѣлая пышность пушистыхъ снѣговъ,  
 Золотые края облаковъ.

Я звучныя пѣсни не самъ создавалъ,  
 Мнѣ забросилъ ихъ горный обвалъ.  
 И вѣтеръ влюблённый, дрожа по струнѣ,  
 Трепетанія передалъ мнѣ.

Wherever I wander,  
Or hither, or yonder,  
I have harkened to lays of the storm,  
And I know how diversely I ponder.

The Indian Ocean has azure-clad form  
Where blue is the wave in its dancing,  
And then the Red Sea with its coral display,  
Where billows are tossing in pinkish array;  
Yellow Sea,—fields of water advancing.  
And the Persian Gulf that is verdantly dyed,  
And in the Black Sea, how boistrous the tide,  
And the White Sea,—what phantoms entrancing.  
And ever I mused, ever here, ever there,  
Upon Water so endlessly fair.

## 2. MY SONG-CRAFT.

My song-craft is filled with the trickle of springs,  
And clearer and clearer it rings:  
With the passionate whispers of love it is laden,  
With the kisses bestowed by a maiden.

The chillness of ice with my song-craft is blending,  
The crystalline water unending;  
It holds the white glory of snow's downy shrouds,  
And the golden-hued fringes of clouds.

The resonant songs I alone have not wrought,  
By the avalanche they have been brought.  
And amorous wind in the strings as it quivered,  
Its trembling to me has delivered.

Возду́шныя пѣсни съ мерца́ньемъ страстѣй  
 Я подслу́шалъ у звѣнкихъ дождей.  
 Узорно-играющій та́кой свѣтъ  
 Подглядѣлъ въ сочѣтаньяхъ планѣтъ.

И я въ человѣческомъ нечеловѣкѣ,  
 Я захваченъ разливами рѣкъ.  
 И, въ морѣ стремя полногласность свою,  
 Я стозвучныя пѣсни пою.

## 3.

Я—изысканность русской медлительной рѣчи,  
 Предо мною другіе поэты—предтечи,  
 Я впервые открылъ въ этой рѣчи уклѣны;  
 Перепѣвные, гнѣвные, нѣжные звоны.

Я—внезапный изломъ,  
 Я—играющій громъ,  
 Я—прозрачный ручей,  
 Я—для всѣхъ и ничей.

Переплѣскъ многопѣнный, разорванно-слитный,  
 Самоцвѣтные камни земли самобытной,  
 Переключки лѣсныя зелѣнаго мая,  
 Всё пойму́, всё возьму́, у другіхъ отнимая.

Вѣчно-юный, какъ сонъ,  
 Сильный тѣмъ, что влюблѣнъ  
 И въ себя и въ другіхъ,  
 Я—изысканный стихъ.



My airy-tuned songs with the looming of pain  
I have heard in the chimes of the rain,  
And the pattern-wise melting and dallying light  
I have glimpsed as the planets unite.

And though amid mortals, no mortal am I,  
The river-floods raised me on high.  
And in ocean my bounty of sound I have thrown,  
My hundred-fold chants to intone.

## 3. ✓

I am choiceness of Russian, so stately of mien,  
The poets before me my heralds have been,  
I the first in this tongue subtle byways revealed,  
Strains tuneful, and wrathful and wistful I wield.

I,—a rending asunder,  
I,—a sporting of thunder,  
I,—a stream, finely-spun,  
I,—for all and for none.

Rills plashing in foam, that are rivenly merging,  
The jewels unblemished, of earth's matchless purging.  
The summons of woodlands in verdure of May,  
All I grasp, all I take, and I bear all away.

Young, as dreams, evermore,  
Strong because I adore  
Both myself and the rest,  
I,—the verse choicely stressed.

## 4. ЗАВѢТЬ БЫТІЯ.

Я спросилъ у свободнаго вѣтра,  
 Что мнѣ сдѣлать, чтобъ быть молодымъ.  
 Мнѣ отвѣтилъ играющій вѣтеръ:  
 „Будь воздушнымъ, какъ вѣтеръ, какъ дымъ!“

Я спросилъ у могучаго Моря,  
 Въ чѣмъ великій завѣтъ бытія.  
 Мнѣ отвѣтило звѣчающее Море:  
 „Будь всегда полнозвѣчнымъ, какъ я!“

Я спросилъ у высокаго Сѣнца,  
 Какъ мнѣ вспыхнуть свѣтлѣе зарі.  
 Ничего не отвѣтило Сѣнце,  
 Но душа услышала: „Горѣ!“

## 5. КАМЫШИ.

Полночной порою въ болотной глуши  
 Чуть слышно, безшумно шуршатъ камыши;

О чѣмъ они шепчутъ? О чѣмъ говорятъ?  
 Зачѣмъ огоньки между ними горятъ?

Мелькаютъ, мигають,—и снова ихъ нѣтъ,  
 И снова забрѣжилъ блуждающій свѣтъ.

Полночной поройъ камыши шелестятъ;  
 Въ нихъ жабы гнѣздятся, въ нихъ змѣи свистятъ.

Въ болотѣ дрожитъ умирающій ликъ:  
 То мѣсяцъ багровый печально поникъ.

## 4. LIFE'S BEHEST.

I QUESTIONED with fetterless breezes,  
How with youth to accomplish my days;  
I was answered by dallying breezes:  
"Be thou airy as breezes, as haze!"

I questioned with dominant ocean,  
Where life's mighty behest to descry;  
I was answered by resonant ocean:  
"Be thou ever full-sounding as I!"

I questioned with measureless sunshine,  
How the dawn to outdo in its light:  
There was naught in response from the sunshine,  
But I heard in my spirit: "Burn bright!"

## 5. THE REEDS. ✓

WHEN midnight has come on the desolate slough,  
Scarce heard are the reeds, so softly they sough.

Of what do they whisper and talk to and fro?  
For what are the flamelets amongst them aglow?

They shimmer, they glimmer, and once more they wane,  
Then the wandering light is enkindled again.

When midnight has come, then the reeds are aquake;  
They harbour the toad and the hiss of the snake.

In the slough is aquiver a perishing gaze:  
'Tis the purple-hued moon that forlornly decays.

И тѣной запахло. И сырость ползётъ . . .  
Трясина заманить, сожмётъ, засосётъ.

„Кого? Для чего?“—камыші говорятъ—  
„Зачѣмъ огоньки между нами горятъ?“

Но мѣсяцъ печальный безмолвно поникъ,  
Не знаетъ. Склоняетъ всё ниже свой ликъ.

И, вздохъ повторяя погибшей души,  
Тоскливо, безшумно шуршатъ камыші.

## 6.

Я въ этотъ міръ пришёлъ, чтобъ видѣть Сѣнце  
И сѣній кругозоръ.

Я въ этотъ міръ пришёлъ, чтобъ видѣть Сѣнце  
И выси горъ.

Я въ этотъ міръ пришёлъ, чтобъ видѣть Море  
И пышный цвѣтъ долинъ.

Я заключилъ міры въ единомъ взорѣ,—  
Я властелинъ.

Я побѣдилъ холодное забвѣнье,  
Создавъ мечту мою.

Я каждый мигъ исполненъ откровенья,  
Всегда пою.

Мою мечту страданья пробудили,  
Но я люблю за то.

Кто равенъ мнѣ въ моей пѣвучей силѣ?  
Никто, никто.

Я въ этотъ міръ пришёлъ, чтобъ видѣть Сѣнце—  
А если день погасъ,

Я буду пѣть . . . Я буду пѣть о Сѣнцѣ,  
Въ предсмертный часъ!



There is odour of slime. And the soddenness crawls.  
The marsh will allure and engulf as it mauls.

“ But whom? And for what—” say the reeds to and fro,—  
“ For what are the flamelets amongst us aglow?”

But the moon that forlornly and mutely decays  
Cannot tell. But yet lower she settles her gaze.

’Tis the sigh of a perishing spirit that now  
The reeds softly raise as they mournfully sough.

## 6. ✓

I CAME into this world to see the sunshine,  
The sky-line’s bluish lights.

I came into this world to see the sunshine,  
And mountain-heights.

I came into this world to see the ocean,  
The valley’s rich array.

I in a single gaze saw worlds in motion,—  
Where I held sway.

I triumphed o’er oblivion’s chill concealment,  
I shaped my pondering.

Filled was my every moment with revealment,  
I ever sing.

My pondering was roused by tribulation,—  
But thus my love it won.

Who is my like in strength of tune-creation?  
Not one, not one.

I came into this world to see the sunshine,  
And when day’s wane is nigh,

Then will I sing . . . then will I sing of sunshine,  
Before I die.

## 7.

Свѣча горѣть и мѣркнетъ и вновь горѣть сильнѣй,  
Но мѣркнетъ безвозвратно сіянье юныхъ дней.  
Гори же, разгорайся, пока ещё ты юнъ,  
Сильнѣй полнѣй касайся сердечныхъ звонкихъ  
струнь,  
Чтобъ было что припомнить на склѣнѣ трудныхъ  
лѣтъ,  
Чтобъ старости холодной свѣтилъ нетлѣнный свѣтъ—  
Мечтаній благородныхъ, порывовъ молодыхъ,  
Безумныхъ, но прекрасныхъ, безумныхъ и святыхъ.

## 8.

О, вѣлны морскія, родная стихія моя,  
Всегда вы свободно бѣжите въ иные края,  
Всегда одиноки въ холодномъ движеніи своёмъ,  
А мы безутѣшно тоскуемъ,—одни и вдвоёмъ.  
Зачѣмъ не могу я дышать и бѣжать, какъ волна?  
Я въ міръ одинъ, и душа у меня холодная,  
Я также спѣшу всё въ иные, въ иные края,—  
О, вѣлны морскія, родная стихія моя!

## 7.

THE light will burn and darken, then burn with stronger  
blaze,  
But unreturning darkens the sheen of youthful days.  
Glow then, and be enkindled, the while thou still art  
young,  
Let ever more undwindled the heart's loud chords be  
strung,  
That something be remembered in waning years of woe,  
That chill old-age be lighted by that decayless glow,  
Born of exalted fancies, and headstrong youth's ado,  
Heedless, but full of splendour, heedless and hallowed,  
too.

## 8. ✓

O WAVES of the ocean, akin to the blood in my veins,  
Ye ever unfettered are coursing to other domains,  
Ye ever are lonely in chillness of ebb and of flow,  
And,—alone or united,—we pine in un comforted woe.  
Why may I not breathe and course on as a wave of the  
sea?  
On earth I am lonely, and cold is the spirit in me,  
I likewise am speeding to other, to other domains,—  
O waves of the ocean, akin to the blood in my veins !

## 9. СВѢТЛЫЙ МІРЪ.

Тѳ́нкій, ѳ́зкій, длі́нный ходъ  
Въ глубь земли мечтѳ́ ведѳ́тъ.  
Тѳ́лько спѳ́стишься тудѳ́,  
Встрѳ́тишь зѳ́мки ѳ́зо льда.

Чуть сойдѳ́шь отсю́да внизѳ́,  
Разноцвѳ́тности зажглісь,  
Смѳ́трите чѳ́й-то свѳ́тлый глазѳ́,  
Лу́нный ка́мень и алма́зъ.

Тамъ опѳ́ль снѳ́жить, а тутъ  
Расцвѳ́таетъ изумру́дъ.  
И услѳ́шишь въ зѳ́мкахъ тѳ́хъ  
Флѳ́йты, лѳ́тні, нѳ́жный смѳ́хъ.

И увѳ́дишь чѳ́ихъ то ногъ  
Тамъ хруста́льный башмачѳ́къ.  
Льды, колѳ́нны, свѳ́тъ, снѳ́гѳ́,  
Нѳ́жность, снѳ́жность, жемчу́гѳ́.

Тѳ́нкій, ѳ́зкій, длі́нный ходъ  
Въ ѳ́тотъ свѳ́тлый мірѳ́ ведѳ́тъ.  
Но, чтобѳ́ знѳ́ть тудѳ́ путѳ́,  
Нѳ́жно бѳ́режно иттѳ́.



## 9. THE MAGIC WORLD.

STRAIT the passage, slender, long,  
Reaching depths where visions throng.  
Sinking down, you turn your eyes  
Where an ice-wrought castle lies.

When from here you sink below,  
Twinkling shafts of colour glow;  
Someone's peeping eyes are seen—  
Adamant and moonstone sheen.

There's the snowy opal; here  
Budding emeralds appear.

Hearken—in these castles be  
Flutes and lutes and dainty glee.

Whose may be the feet that don  
Crystal shoon you gaze upon?  
Ice in pillars, lustre, snow,  
Dainty, flaky, pearly glow.

Strait the passage, slender, long,  
Reaching realms where splendours throng;  
But to find the path you need,  
You must set your foot with heed.

## Алексáндръ Алексáндровичъ Блокъ

### 1. ДЕНЬ БЫТЬ НѢЖНО-СѢРЫЙ . . .

День быть нѣжно-сѣрый, сѣрый, какъ тоска.  
Вѣчеръ сталъ матовый, какъ жѣнская рука.

Въ комнатахъ вѣчернихъ прѣтали сердца,  
Усталыя отъ нѣжной тоски безъ конца.

Пожимали рѹки, избѣгали встрѣчь,  
Укрывали смѣхи бѣлизною плечъ.

Длинный вырѣзъ плáтья, плáтье, какъ змѣя,  
Въ сѹмеркахъ бѣлѣетъ плáтья чешуя.

Надъ скáтертью въ столóвой наклонились ницъ,  
Касаясь причѣсками пылающихъ лицъ.

Стѹки сѣрдца чáще, напряжѣннѣй взглядъ,  
Въ мысляхъ—онъ, глубóкий, нѣжный, дѹшный садъ.

И мóлча, какъ по знаку, двинулись внизъ.  
На ступѣнькахъ шóрохъ бѣлыхъ жѣнскихъ ризъ.

Мóлча потонѹли въ саду безъ слѣда,  
Небо тѣхо вспыхнуло заревомъ стыда.

Мóжетъ быть скатилась красная звѣзда.

## Alexander Alexandrovitch Block

### 1. TENDER-GREY THE DAY WAS . . .

TENDER-GREY the day was, grey as sorrow, and  
Pallid grew the evening, like a woman's hand.

In the house at evening they had hid their hearts,  
Faint with tender sorrow,—grief that ne'er departs.

Hands were clasped together, eyes forebore to meet,  
Unto glistening shoulders laughing lips retreat.

Garb that bares the shoulders, serpent-like array,  
White as scaly raiment in the waning day.

O'er the table-cover brow to brow inclined;  
O'er the glowing faces locks of hair were twined.

Beat of hearts grew swifter, glances sore oppressed,  
In their thoughts the garden,—sultry, deep, at rest.

Mutely they together, as in covenant, stirred;  
Woman's white apparel on the steps was heard.

Mutely in the garden, tracelessly they fled,  
Softly in the heavens, shame its flush outspread.

Then, perchance, a star fell, with a trail of red.

NOTE.—It was found impossible to reproduce quite closely the fluctuating rhythm of the original.

## 2. ВѢРБОЧКИ.

Мальчики, да дѣвочки  
Свѣчечки, да вѣрбочки  
Понесли́ домой.

Огонёчки тёплятся,  
Прохо́жіе крѣстятся,  
И пахнётъ весно́й.

Вѣтерокъ удале́нкій,  
До́ждикъ, до́ждикъ ма́ленькій,  
Не заду́й огня !

Въ Воскресе́нье Ве́рбное  
За́втра вста́ну пе́рвая  
Для свято́го дня.



## 2. THE WILLOW-BOUGHS.

LADS and lasses gathering,  
Willow-boughs and tapers bring,  
That they homeward bear.

Warmly do the flamelets glow,  
Wayfarers cross them as they go;  
Spring-tide scents the air.

Little breeze from far away,  
Rain, O rain, with tiny spray,  
Quench ye not the flame.

For Palm Sunday earliest,  
I to-morrow stir from rest,  
Holy-day to acclaim.

NOTE.—It is almost impossible to reproduce in English rhyme the delicate simplicity of the original, with its diminutives and the tripping melody of its metre.

## Валерій Яковлевичъ Бріосовъ

### 1. ТЕРЦІИНЫ КЪ СПІСКАМЪ КНИГЪ.

И васъ я помню, перечни и списки,  
Васъ вижу предъ собою за ликомъ ликъ.  
Вы мнѣ, въ степи безлюдной, снова близки.

Я ваши таинства давно постигъ !  
При лампѣ, наклонясь надъ каталогомъ,  
Вникаю въ названья неизвѣстныхъ книгъ ;

Слѣдить за именами ; слогъ за слогомъ  
Впивать слова чужого языка ;  
Угадывать великое въ немногомъ ;

Возсоздавать поэтовъ и вѣка  
По краткимъ повторительнымъ помѣтамъ :  
„Безъ титула“, „въ сафьянѣ“ и „рѣдка“.

И нынѣ вы предстали мнѣ скелетомъ  
Всего, что было жизнью сто вѣковъ,  
Киваетъ онъ съ насмѣшливымъ привѣтомъ.

Мнѣ говорить : „Я не совсѣмъ готовъ,  
Ещё мнѣ нужны кости и суставы,  
Я жажду книгъ, чтобъ сдѣлать груду словъ.

„Мечтайте, думайте, ищите славы !  
Мнѣ всё равно, безумецъ иль пророкъ,  
Созданье для ума и для забавы.

## Valery Yakovlevitch Bryusov

### 1. STANZAS ON BOOK CATALOGUES.

YE lists and catalogues still haunt my brain;  
Before me I behold you, face on face,  
Near me afresh on this unpeopled plain.

Your secrets long ago I held in chase !  
By lamp-light o'er the catalogue I bent,  
To probe for books that scarce had left a trace;

To track down names; by syllables I went,  
Sipping at words of foreign tongues with care,  
Surmising much from briefest document.

Poets and epochs I upraised in air  
On scanty cue, as oft, to wit, would be:  
" No author's name " or " Bound in calf " or " Rare."

And now, meseems, a skeleton are ye  
Of all that lived in ages long ago,  
That beckons with a scornful nod to me.

And says: " I, having somewhat yet to grow,  
Of still more bones and joints must be possessed,  
I crave for books, that words may overflow.

" Ponder and dream, and be renown your quest !  
' Tis one to me, or imbecile or sage,  
Produce of wisdom or a merry jest.

„Я всѣмъ даю опредѣлённый срокъ.  
Твори и ты, а изъ твоихъ мечтаній  
Я сохраню навѣкъ семь-восемь строкъ.

„Всесильнѣе моихъ упоминаній  
Нѣтъ ничего. Безсмѣртіе во мнѣ.  
Вѣнчаю я—міръ творчества и знаній“.

Такъ остовъ говоритъ мнѣ въ тишинѣ,  
И я, съ покорностью цѣлюя землю,  
При быстро умирающей лунѣ,

Исчезновеніе ! твой зовъ приѣмлю.

## 2. К. Д. БАЛЬМОНТУ.

Какъ прѣжде мы вдвоёмъ, въ ночномъ кафѣ. За  
входомъ

Кружить огни Парижъ, своимъ весельемъ пьянъ.  
Смотрю на обликъ твой ; стараюсь годъ за годомъ  
Всё разгадать, найти рубцы отъ свѣжихъ ранъ.

И ты мнѣ кажешься суровымъ мореходомъ,  
Тѣхъ лучшихъ дней, когда звалъ къ даямъ Магелланъ,  
Предавшимъ гордый духъ безвѣстностямъ и водамъ,  
Узнавшимъ, что тайтъ для вѣрныхъ океанъ.

Я разгадать хочу, въ лучахъ какой лазури,  
Вдали отъ нашихъ странъ, искалъ ты береговъ  
Погибшихъ Атлантидъ и призрачныхъ Лемурий,

Какія тайны спятъ во тьмѣ твоихъ зрачковъ . . .  
Но чтобы выразить, что въ этомъ ликѣ ново,  
Ни ты, ни я, никто ещё не знаетъ слово !



"For all things their established term I gauge.  
Create, and from the dreams whereon you pore,  
I'll keep a few scant verses, age on age.

"Naught in omnipotence can stand before  
My verdict. I allot the deathless bays  
And crown a world of phantasy and lore."

Thus quoth the wraith to me on silent ways,  
And as to earth with humble kiss I fall,  
While the moon swiftly dies before my gaze,

O transient glory, I accept your call!

## 2. TO K. D. BALMONT.

At night, as was our wont, we sought the café. Near,  
Paris aglow and drunken in its rapture swayed.  
I gaze upon your face; I strive from year to year  
To pierce the veil and seek the scars new wounds have  
made.

And like a rugged sailor you to me appear,  
Who in those goodly times Magellan's call obeyed,  
Trusting to seas unknown his soul too proud for fear,  
For he has learnt what ocean yields not to the staid.

And fain would I surmise amid what azure gleam,  
What marges you have sought, far from our native skies,  
Where dead Atlantides and phantom Lemurs teem.

What secrets sleep amid the darkness of your eyes . . .  
But, to proclaim what tidings in your gaze abound,  
Nor you, nor I, nor any yet the words have found.

## 3. ЯРОСТНЫЯ ПТИЦЫ.

Яростныя птицы съ огненными пѣрыями  
Пронеслись надъ бѣлыми райскими преддверьями,  
Огненные отблески вспыхнули на мраморѣ  
И умчались странницы, улетѣли за море.

Но на чистомъ мраморѣ, на порогѣ дѣвственномъ,  
Что-то всё алѣлося блѣскомъ неестественнымъ,  
И въ вратахъ подъ сводами, вѣчными, алмазными  
Упивались ангелы тайными соблазнами.

## 4. СУМЕРКИ.

Горять электричествомъ луны  
На выгнутыхъ, длинныхъ стебляхъ;  
Звенять телеграфныя струны  
Въ незримыхъ и нѣжныхъ рукахъ;

Круги циферблатовъ янтарныхъ  
Волшебнo зажглись надъ толпой,  
И жаждущихъ плитъ тротуарныхъ  
Коснулся прохладный покой.

Подъ сѣтью плѣнительно—зыбкой  
Притихъ отуманенный скверъ,  
И вечеръ цѣлуетъ съ улыбкой  
Въ глаза—проходящихъ гетеръ.

Какъ тихіе звуки клавира—  
Далекіе ропоты дня.  
О сумерки! Милостью міра  
Опять упойте меня!

## 3. BIRDS OF WRATH.

BIRDS of wrath with their plumage of fire all bedight  
Over heaven's white portals were borne in their flight;  
On the marble the fiery refulgences flared.  
Then swiftly o'er ocean the wanderers fared.

But upon the pure marble, the threshold unstained,  
There was something unwonted that flushed and  
remained;—

'Neath the crystalline vault never-ending aloft  
Most secret enticements by angels were quaffed.

NOTE.—The metre of the original has not been reproduced.

## 4. DUSK.

ELECTRICAL moons are twinkling  
On curving and delicate bands;  
The telegraph wires are tinkling  
In tender, invisible hands.

The clocks with their amber faces  
By magic are lit o'er the crowd;  
Of stillness the cooling traces  
The thirst-ridden pavement enshroud.

'Neath a net that quivers enchanted,  
The square lies hushed in the haze;  
The evening has smilingly planted  
A kiss on the harlots' gaze.

As music that soothingly quavers  
Is daytime's far-away roar.  
O dusk! In your lulling favours  
You steep my spirit once more.

## 5. КАМЕНЩИКЪ.

—Каменщикъ, каменщикъ, въ фартукѣ бѣломъ,  
Что ты тамъ строишь? кому?

—Эй, не мѣшай намъ, мы заняты дѣломъ,  
Строимъ мы, строимъ тюрьму.

—Каменщикъ, каменщикъ, съ вѣрной лопатой,  
Кто же въ ней будетъ рыдать?

—Вѣрно, не ты и не твой братъ, богатый.  
Нѣзачѣмъ вамъ воровать.

—Каменщикъ, каменщикъ, долгія но́чи,  
Кто жъ проведётъ въ ней безъ сна?

—Можетъ быть, сынъ мой, такой же рабо́чий.  
Тѣмъ наша до́ля полна.

—Каменщикъ, каменщикъ, вспо́мнить, пожа́луй,  
Тѣхъ онъ, кто нёсъ кирпи́чи!

—Эй! береги́сь! подь лѣса́ми не ба́луй . . .  
Знае́мъ всё са́ми, молчи́!



## 5. THE STONEHEWER.

—STONEHEWER, stonehewer, whitely arrayed,  
What art thou building? For whom?

—Ho, do not baulk us intent on our trade,—  
From our building a prison will loom.

—Stonehewer, stonehewer, trowel in hand,  
Who then will sob in these walls?

—Not you, nor your brother, rich man, understand,  
For theft to your lot never falls.

—Stonehewer, stonehewer, who without sleep  
Will abide there long hours of the night?

—Maybe my son will,—he toils for his keep.  
And such is the close of our plight.

—Stonehewer, stonehewer, then will he think  
Of them who laid bricks here of yore!

—Ho, beware! Beneath ladders from jests you should  
shrink . . .

This we ourselves know, give o'er!

NOTE.—This is a very inadequate translation of a poem, the precise style of which is extremely difficult to reproduce.

## Ивѣнъ Бѣнинъ

### 1.

Ночь идѣтъ—и темнѣтъ  
Блѣдносиній востокъ.  
Отъ одѣждъ ея вѣтъ  
По полямъ вѣтерокъ.

День былъ дологъ и знóень,  
Ночь идѣтъ и поѣтъ.  
Колыбельную пѣсно  
И къ покою зовѣтъ.

Грустенъ взоръ ея тёмный,  
Одинокъ ея путь . . .  
Спи-усни, моё сердце!  
Отдохни . . . Позабудь.

### 2.

Какъ свѣтлѣ, нарядна, веснѣ!  
Погляди мнѣ въ глаза, какъ бывало,  
И скажи: отчего ты грустнѣ?  
Отчего ты такъ ласкова стѣла?

Но молчишь ты, слабѣ, какъ цвѣтокъ . . .  
О, молчи!—Мнѣ не надо признанья:  
Я узналъ эту ласку прощанья,—  
Я опять одинокъ!

## Ivan Bunin

### 1.

NIGHT hastens and seizes  
Clear gleams in the east.  
From her raiment light breezes  
Over fields are released.

Long and sultry the day was,  
Night sings as she goes  
A lullaby ditty  
And calls to repose.

Her dark gaze is mournful,  
On her way naught is met . . .  
O my heart, sleep and slumber,  
Take your rest . . . and forget.

### 2.

How agleam, how garnished the spring!  
Turn your eyes in the old way upon me:  
Say, wherefore this sorrowing?  
Why lavish this tenderness on me?

You are mute, as a blossom so frail,  
Say naught!—No confession is needed:  
The flight of your love I have heeded,—  
Lone again is my trail!

## Зинаида Николаевна Гиппиусъ

### 1. ПѢСНЯ.

Окно моё высоко надъ землею,  
Высоко надъ землею.  
Я вижу только небо съ вечернею зарёю,—  
Съ вечернею зарёю.

И небо кажется пустымъ и блѣднымъ,  
Такимъ пустымъ и блѣднымъ.  
Оно не сжаляется надъ сердцемъ блѣднымъ  
Надъ моимъ сердцемъ блѣднымъ.

Увы, въ печали безумной я умираю,  
Я умираю.  
Стремлюсь къ тому, чего я не знаю,  
Не знаю.

И это желаніе не знаю откуда  
Пришло откуда,  
Но сердце хочетъ и просить чуда,  
Чуда !

О, пусть будетъ то, чего не бываетъ,  
Никогда не бываетъ :  
Мнѣ блѣдное небо чудесъ общается,  
Оно общается,



## Zinaida Nikolayevna Hippus

### 1. SONG.

My window is high o'er the earthly spaces,  
    O'er the earthly spaces;  
I behold but the sky with evening's red traces,  
    With evening's red traces.

And the gaze of the sky is so faded and dreary,  
    So faded and dreary;  
No pity it has for the heart that is weary,  
    For my heart that is weary.

Alas, by a frenzied dismay I am riven,  
    I am riven;  
I know not the thing whereto I am driven,  
    I am driven.

Nor whence is the wish that I bow myself under;  
    I bow myself under;  
But my heart is desiring and craving a wonder,  
    A wonder.

O may it be aught that life never offers,  
    That life never offers;  
Unto me 'tis a wonder the sky wanly proffers,  
    That it proffers.

Но плачу безъ слёзъ о невѣрномъ обѣтѣ,  
О невѣрномъ обѣтѣ.  
Мнѣ нужно то, чего нѣтъ на свѣтѣ,  
Чего нѣтъ на свѣтѣ.

## 2. ЭЛЕКТРИЧЕСТВО.

Двѣ нити вмѣстѣ свѣты,  
Концы обнажены.  
То „да“ и „нѣтъ“,—не слѣты,  
Не слѣты—сплетены.  
Ихъ тѣмное сплетенье  
И тѣсно, и мертвó.  
Но ждѣтъ ихъ воскресенье,  
И ждутъ они его.  
Концовъ концы коснутся—  
Другіе „да“ и „нѣтъ“,  
И „да“ и „нѣтъ“ проснутся,  
Сплетенные сольются,  
И смерть ихъ бѣдетъ—Свѣтъ.

But tearless I weep for the vow that is broken,  
For the vow that is broken.  
The thing that I seek is no earth-given token,  
No earth-given token.

## 2. ELECTRICITY.

Two threads are closely hafted,  
The ends are unconfined.  
'Tis "yea" and "nay,"—not grafted,  
Not grafted,—but entwined.  
Dim is the weft that mates them  
Close and inanimate,  
But wakening awaits them,  
And they the same await.  
End unto end is taken,—  
Fresh "yea" and "nay" ignite,  
And "yea" and "nay" awaken,  
Into one moulding shaken,  
And from their death comes,—light.

## Мирра Александровна Лбхвицкая

И вѣтра стонъ, и шопоть мрачныхъ думъ . . .

И жить отрады нѣтъ . . .

А гдѣ-то зной и моря тихій шумъ,

И солнца яркій свѣтъ !

Гудить мятежь и множить въ сердцахъ гнѣтъ.

Невыплаканныхъ слёзъ . . .

А гдѣ-то миртъ, зелёный миртъ растётъ

И кущи бѣлыхъ розъ !

Проходитъ жизнь въ мечтаньяхъ объ иномъ,

Ничтожна и пуста . . .

А гдѣ-то смѣхъ, и счастье бѣетъ ключёмъ,

И блескъ, и красота !

## Myrrha Alexandrovna Lokhvitskaya

AND moan of winds and whispered thoughts of gloom,  
From life no joy is won . . .  
Yet somewhere,—warmth, and ocean's muffled boom,  
And lustre of the sun.

The blizzard wails, and in the heart it throws  
A load of tears unshed.  
Yet somewhere myrtle, verdant myrtle grows,  
And stainless roses spread.

Life, passing by, in empty brooding delves,  
Unmeaning, unbedight . . .  
Yet somewhere, mirth and bliss will yield themselves,  
And comeliness and light !



# Дмитрій Сергѣевичъ Мережковскій

## 1. НИРВАНА.

И вновь, какъ въ первый день созданья,  
Лазурь небесная тиха,  
Какъ будто въ мірѣ нѣтъ страданья,  
Какъ будто въ сердцѣ нѣтъ грѣха.  
Не надо мнѣ любви и славы:  
Въ молчаньи утреннихъ полѣй  
Дышущу, какъ дышать эти травы . . .  
Ни прошлыхъ, ни грядущихъ дней  
Я не хочу пытать и числить.  
Я только чувствую опять,  
Какое счастье—не мыслить,  
Какая нѣга—не желать !

## 2. ПРИРОДА ГОВОРІТЬ.

Природа говоритъ мнѣ съ царственнымъ презрѣньемъ :  
„Уйди, не нарушай гармоніи моей !  
Твой плачь мнѣ надобль ; не оскорбляй мученьемъ  
Спокойствія моихъ лазоревыхъ ночей.

„Я всё тебѣ дала—жизнь, молодость, свободу,—  
Ты всё, ты всё отвѣргъ съ безсмысленной враждой,  
И дерзкимъ ропотомъ ты оскорбилъ природу,  
Ты мать свою забылъ—уйди, ты мнѣ чужой !

## Dmitri Sergyeyevitch Merezhkovsky

### 1. NIRVANA.

As in the day of first creation,  
The azure skies are calm again,  
As though the world knew not privation,  
As though the heart knew naught of pain;  
For love and fame my craving passes;  
'Mid silence of the fields at morn  
I breathe, as breathe these very grasses . . .  
O'er days ago, and days unborn  
I would not chafe, nor reckoning squander.  
This only do I feel once more:  
What gladness—ne'er again to ponder,  
What bliss—to know all yearning o'er.

### 2. QUOTH NATURE . . .

QUOTH nature unto me in tones of stately scorning:  
" Begone, and break not in upon my harmony!  
I weary of thy tears; mar not with anguished mourning  
The calm wherewith my azure nights encompass me.

" All have I given thee,—life, youth and freedom given,  
But thou in senseless feud hast flung it all away.  
Nature hast thou with overweening murmurs riven,  
Thou hast forgot thy mother,—go, I speak thee nay.

„Иль máло для тебѣ на небѣ звѣздъ блестящихъ,  
Нѣмаго сýмрака въ задумчивыхъ лѣсахъ,

\*

И дикой красоты въ заоблачныхъ горахъ?

„Я всё тебѣ дала,—а въ этомъ чудномъ мірѣ  
Ты не сумѣлъ хоть разъ счастливымъ быть, какъ всѣ:  
Какъ счастливъ звѣрь въ лѣсу и ласточка въ эфирѣ,  
И дремлющій цвѣтокъ въ серебряной росѣ.

„Ты радость бытія сомнѣньемъ разрушаешь:  
Уйди! ты гадокъ мнѣ, безсильный и больной . . .  
Пытливый разумомъ и гордою душой  
Ты счастья безъ меня ищи себѣ, какъ знаешь!“

### 3.

Ласковый вечеръ съ землею прощался,  
Листъ шелохнётся не смѣлъ въ ожиданьи.  
Грѣхотъ телѣги вдали раздавался . . .  
Звѣзды, дрожа, выступали въ молчаньи.

Синее небо—глубоко и странно;  
Но не смотри ты въ него такъ пылливо,  
Но не ищи въ нёмъ разгадки желанной.—  
Синее небо, какъ гробъ, молчаливо!

"Or dost thou rate as naught in heaven the starry lustre,  
And in the brooding woods the dusk where nothing speaks,

■  
And all the rugged beauty on the cloudy peaks?

"All have I given thee,—this world is wonder-gifted,  
Yet couldst thou not be happy, even as all the rest,—  
Happy as woodland beast, and swallow, æther-lifted,  
And bud that sleeps amid its silvery dew-clad nest.

"By thy bewilderment the joy of life thou slayest,  
Begone, I loathe thee, full of weak and sickly dole . . .  
Thou, with thy probing mind and haughtiness of soul,  
Thy happiness without me seek, as best thou mayest."

### 3.

THE eventide fondled the earth in farewell,  
And in its suspense not a leaf dared to sway;  
The creak of a cart far away rose and fell,  
Stars marshalled aquiver in silent array.

Clear-blue is the sky,—deep and strange is its guise;  
But look not upon it with glances that crave,  
But seek not therein the revealment you prize,—  
Clear-blue is the sky, but as mute as the grave.

\* Owing to a defect in the printing, this line has slipped out of the volume from which the poem was taken. Although I have consulted several other editions of Merezhkovsky's poems, I have been unable to find another copy of the text.

## 4. ПРИРОДА.

Ни зломъ, ни враждою кровавой  
Донѣмъ затмить не могли  
Мы неба чертогъ величавый  
И прелесть цвѣтущей земли.

Насъ прежнюю лаской встрѣчаютъ  
Долины, цвѣты и ручьи,  
И звѣзды всё такъ же сіяютъ,  
О томъ же поютъ соловьи.

Не вѣдаетъ нашей кручины  
Могучій, таинственный лѣсъ,  
И нѣтъ ни единой морщины  
На ясной лазури небесъ.

## 5. СБЯТЕЛЬ.

Надъ холмами полосою  
Поблѣлъ востокъ вдали,  
Дышать сыростью ночью  
Глыбы вспаханной земли.

Видишь, мѣрными шагами  
Ходитъ сѣтель въ поляхъ.  
Тишина, какъ въ Божьемъ храмѣ,  
На землѣ и въ небесахъ.



## 4. NATURE.

NOT bloodshed, nor ills we engender,  
Could yet fling a mantle of gloom  
On the heavenly palace of splendour,  
Or on earth with the lure of its bloom.

As of old, we are tenderly ravished  
By valleys and blossoms and rills;  
Unchanging, the starlight is lavished,  
And the tune that the nightingale trills.

Great forests with deep-hidden spaces  
Know naught of our spirit's dismay;  
And never a wrinkle defaces  
The heaven's clear azure array.

## 5. THE SOWER.

FAR above the stretch of hills  
The east has flung its lustre round;  
Moistened breath of night-time fills  
Clods of plough-uprooted ground.

See, how with his measured pace  
O'er the fields the sower goes;  
Calm, as in God's holy place  
On earth and in the heaven flows.

Всё кругомъ священнымъ страхомъ,  
Какъ предъ таинствомъ, полно,  
И руки покойнымъ взмахомъ  
Разсѣваетъ онъ зерно.

И для труженика снова  
Грудь земли родить должна  
Жатву хлѣба золотого  
Изъ погибшаго зерна.

Созидая жизнь изъ смерти,  
Предъ лицомъ святыхъ небесъ,  
О, молитесь-же и вѣрьте:  
Это—чудо изъ чудесъ!

A sacred awe through all the land,  
As of some secret thing is borne;  
And with a gently sweeping hand  
Far and wide he scatters corn.

And for the toiler must again  
Out of the womb of earth be born  
A harvest of the golden grain  
That quickens from the perished corn.

Life out of death is rendered free  
Before the glance of holy skies;  
O, pray then, and believing, see  
A wonder from a wonder rise.

## Никола́й Макси́мович Ми́нскій

### 1.

Какъ сонъ, пройду́тъ дѣла́ и по́мыслы люде́й;  
Забуде́тся ге́ро́й, ислѣ́беть мавзоле́й—

И вмѣстѣ́ въ о́бщій прахъ солью́тся.  
И му́дрость, и любо́вь, и зна́нья, и права́,  
Какъ съ а́спидной доски́ нену́жныя слова́,  
Руко́й невѣ́домой сотру́тся.

И ужъ не тѣ́ слова́ подѣ́ тою́ же руко́й—  
Дале́ко отъ земли́, засты́вшей и нѣмо́й—

Возникну́тъ вно́вь зага́дкой блѣ́дной.  
И сно́ва свѣ́тъ блесне́тъ, что́бъ ста́ть добы́чей тьмы́,  
И кто́-то бу́детъ жи́ть не́ такъ, какъ жи́ли мы́,  
Но́ такъ, какъ мы́, умре́тъ безслѣ́дно.

И невозмо́жно намъ́ предвѣ́дѣть и по́нять,  
Въ ка́кія фо́рмы ду́хъ одѣ́нется о́пять.

Въ ка́кихъ создáньяхъ воплоти́тся.  
Бы́ть мо́жетъ, изъ все́го, что́ бу́диль въ насъ́ любо́вь,  
На той звѣ́здѣ́ ничто́ не повто́рится вно́вь . . .  
Но́ есть одно́, что́ повто́рится:

Ли́шь то, что́ мы́ тепе́рь счита́емъ пра́зднымъ сно́мъ,  
Тоска́ неясная о́ чёмъ-то незе́мномъ́,

Куда́-то сму́тныя стре́мленья́.  
Вражда́ къ тому́, что́ есть, предчу́вствій ро́бкій свѣ́тъ,  
И жа́жда жгу́чая святы́нь, кото́рыхъ нѣ́тъ,—  
Одно́ ли́шь э́то чу́ждо тлѣ́нья́.

## Nikolai Maximovitch Minsky

### 1.

MAN's ponderings and labours, dream-like, pass away,  
Heroes will be forgot, and sepulchres decay,—

And all in common dust is merged.

And righteousness and love, and sciences and lore,  
As words upon a slate, whose meaning is no more,

By undiscovered hand are purged.

But words that are not these, beneath the self-same hand,  
Far from the numbing muteness of this earthly land,

Again, pale riddles will supply.

Another light will shine, for gloom to prey upon,  
And others there will live, not as our lives have gone,

But e'en as we, untraced shall die.

And we have not the power to fathom or to view  
The guise wherein our spirit shall be garbed anew,

The shapes wherein its breath shall dwell.

Perchance, of all that love within us stirs to life,  
Nothing upon this planet shall again be rife,

But there is one thing naught can quell:

Only the thing that now an empty dream we count,  
The blurred and fretful wish beyond the earth to mount,

Restive essays towards some height.

Hatred of things that are, foreboding's timid glow,  
And burdensome desire for shrines we cannot know,—

On this alone shall come no blight.



Въ какихъ бы образахъ и гдѣ бы средь міровъ  
 Ни вспыхнуть мысли свѣтъ, какъ лучъ средь облаковъ,

Какія бы существа ни жили,—

Но будутъ рваться вдаль онѣ, подобно намъ,  
 Изъ страха своего къ несбыточнымъ мечтамъ,  
 Грустія душой, какъ мы грустили.

И потому не тотъ безсмертенъ на землѣ,  
 Кто превзошёлъ другихъ въ добрѣ или во злѣ,

Кто славы хрупкія скрижали

Наполнилъ повѣстью, безцѣльною, какъ сонъ,  
 Предъ кѣмъ толпы людей — такой же прахъ, какъ  
 онъ—

Благоговѣли иль дрожали,

Но всѣхъ безсмертнѣй тотъ, кому сквозь прахъ земли  
 Какой-то новый міръ мерещился вдали,

Несуществующій и вѣчный.

Кто цѣли неземной такъ жаждалъ и страдалъ,  
 Что силой жажды самъ миражъ себѣ создалъ  
 Среди пустыни безконечной.

## 2.

Я вижу край обѣтованный,  
 Сверканье водъ, шатры деревъ.  
 Но преступить предѣлъ желанный  
 Мнѣ запретилъ Господній гнѣвъ.

Усталъ я отъ песковъ и зноя,  
 Ещё при жизни смерть вкусилъ.  
 Такъ изнемогъ, что для покоя  
 Въ моей душѣ нѣтъ больше силъ.

In whatsoever guise, and where 'mid worlds shall gleam  
The radiance of thought, like to a cloud-girt beam,  
    Whatever lives are fashioned yet,—  
Still shall they make ado, and rouse them e'en as we,  
From very depths of dread to dreams that ne'er can be,  
    Fretful of soul, as we do fret.

And therefore he is not on earth immortal who  
Either in good or ill his fellows could outdo,  
    Who upon glory's tablets frail  
Hath graved the deeds of him, that, as a dream, are  
    naught,  
'Fore whom the throng, of that same clay as he is wrought,  
    Or utter homages, or quail.

But above all is he immortal unto whom  
Through dust of earth afar new worlds were wont to loom,  
    Worlds though unreal, yet perishless.  
He who so craved and pined for things beyond the earth,  
That by his craving's power he gave his vision birth  
    'Mid an unending wilderness.

## 2.

I VIEW the promised land before me. —  
Gleaming of waters, tents of trees.  
But anger of the Lord forbore me  
To touch the dower I long to seize.

I rose from heat and sandy places,  
I tasted death in living hours:  
My strength so wanes, that it effaces  
Within my soul all placid powers.

И ёсли раднoстнoму краю  
 Поётъ привѣтъ мой грустный стихъ,  
 Я гимнъ привѣтственный слагаю  
 Не для себя, а для другіхъ.

## 3.

То, что вы зовёте вдохновеньемъ,  
 Я зову прислушиваньемъ чуткимъ.  
 Есть часы, когда съ восторгомъ жуткимъ  
 Вдругъ я слышу: кто-то съ грустнымъ пѣньемъ

Надъ душой пронёсится моёю.  
 Слышу, внемлю, чую, замираю . . .  
 И творю, доколѣ повторяю  
 То, къ чему прислушаться успѣю.

## 4. ГОРОДЪ ВДАЛИ.

Тамъ внизу, въ полукругломъ просвѣтѣ холмовъ,  
 Виденъ городъ вдаль.  
 Тамъ, за блѣдными пятнами селъ и лѣсовъ,  
 Гдѣ сливаются краски полей и луговъ,  
 Чуть мерещится городъ вдаль.

Не домъ, не садъ,—что-то тѣнью болшой  
 Залегло сквозь туманъ.  
 Какъ безстрастье надъ много страдавшей душой,  
 Какъ усталость надъ много державшей мечтой,  
 Легъ надъ городомъ мутный туманъ.

And if my mournful-tuned ovation  
Is chanted to that glad domain,  
I shape a hymn of salutation,  
Not for my own, but others' gain.

## 3.

WHAT you are wont to name as inspiration,  
Delicacy of hearkening I call;  
Hours there are that palpably enthrall,  
When I hear the plaintive incantation.

Of someone who above my spirit stirred:  
I hark, I grope, I feel, my senses wane . . .  
I labour on until I shape again  
The thing that by my mastery I heard.

## 4. THE CITY AFAR.

Down yonder, 'mid hills in a shimmering bend  
Lo, the city afar.  
Pale village and woodland before it extend,  
Where tintings of meadow and pasturage blend,  
The city gleams faintly afar.

Nor dwelling, nor yard—but in shadows of night,  
Something glides through the mist.  
As if listless o'er many a soul in its plight,  
As if weary o'er many a vision of might,  
O'er the city lies dimly the mist.

Изъ живыхъ испарений труда и страстей

Сотканъ мгlistый покровъ.

Изъ пылинокъ, изъ дыма, изъ брызгъ, изъ тѣней,

Изъ дыханій и криковъ несчетныхъ грудей

Сотканъ въ воздухѣ мгlistый покровъ.

Между городомъ буйнымъ и взоромъ моимъ

Онъ повисъ навсегда,

Ибо утро и полдень безсильны надъ нимъ.

Храмы, тюрьмы, дворцы для меня, точно дымъ,

Въ отдаленіи слились навсегда.

Лишь порою закаты стрѣловиднымъ лучемъ

Мглу проніжетъ на мигъ.

И предъ тѣмъ какъ исчезнуть во мракѣ ночномъ,

Дальній городъ людей угрожающимъ сномъ,

Открывается взору на мигъ.



Live vapours of toiling and passionate cries  
Weave a darkening pall.

Dust and smoke and the specks and the shadows that rise,  
And numberless hearts with their throbbings and sighs,  
Aloft weave a darkening pall.

'Twixt the din of the city's unrest and my gaze  
It is spread evermore.

And its load nor the morn nor the noon can upraise,  
Gaols, churches and courtyards, meseems, are but haze,—  
In the farness they merge evermore.

But sometimes at sunset an arrowy ray  
Stabs the mist for a flash.

And amid the night's darkness, then fading away,  
The city afar with its dreams of dismay  
Is revealed to the gaze for a flash.

## Федоръ Кúзьмичъ Сологúбъ

### 1.

Возстáвилъ Богъ меня изъ вла́жной глѣны,  
Но отъ земли не отдѣлилъ.  
Родныя мнѣ—вершіны и долины,  
Какъ я себѣ, весь міръ мнѣ миль.

Когда гляжý на дáльныя доро́ги,  
Мнѣ ка́жется, что я на нихъ  
Всѣ чýвствую колéса, кáмни, нóги,  
Какъ бúдно на рука́хъ мои́хъ.

Гляжý ли я на звóнкіе потóки,—  
Мнѣ ка́жется, что éто мнѣ  
Земля́ несётъ живи́тельные со́ки,  
Свой да́ры моéй веснѣ.

### 2. ТРЮЛÉТЫ СѢВЕРУ.

#### (i.)

Земля́ докúчная и злáя,  
Но всё же мнѣ родна́я мать!  
Люблю́ тебя, о мать нѣмáя,  
Земля́ докúчная и злáя!  
Какъ слáдко зéмлю обнима́ть,  
Къ ней приника́я въ ча́рахъ ма́я!  
Земля́ докúчная и злáя,  
Но всё же мнѣ родна́я мать!

## Fedor Kuzmitch Sologub

### 1.

FROM moistened clay by God was I created,  
But never freed from earthly guise.  
With peaks and valleys I am federated,  
E'en as myself, the earth I prize.

When gazing on the distant roads I ponder,  
Methinks that feeling I can grasp  
How wheels thereon, and stones and feet that wander,  
Are all as if within my clasp.

When torrents I behold with deep-toned courses,  
Methinks that merged amid their power  
Earth bears her saps with their restoring forces  
Unto my spring-tide, as her dower.

### 2. NORTHERN TRIOLETS.

#### (i.)

THOU earth with guile and irksome woe,  
Art yet a mother unto me !  
Mute mother mine, I love thee so,  
Thou earth with guile and irksome woe !  
How sweet in earth's embrace to be,  
Nestling to her when May's aglow !  
Thou earth with guile and irksome woe,  
Art yet a mother unto me !

## (ii.)

Любите, люди, зѣмлю,—зѣмлю  
 Въ зелѣной тайнѣ влажныхъ травъ.  
 Велѣнью тайному я внѣмлю:  
 —Любите, люди, зѣмлю,—зѣмлю  
 И сладость всѣхъ ея отравъ!—  
 Земной и тѣмный, всё приѣмлю.  
 Любите, люди, зѣмлю,—зѣмлю  
 Въ зелѣной тайнѣ влажныхъ травъ.

## (iii.)

Сѣрдце дрогнуло отъ радости.  
 Снова сѣверь, снова дождь,  
 Снова нѣженъ мохъ и тощъ,—  
 И уныніе до радости,  
 И томленіе до сладости,—  
 И мечтанья тихихъ рощъ,  
 И дрожитъ душа отъ радости,—  
 Милый сѣверь! милый дождь!

## (iv.)

Куполъ цѣркви, крестъ и небо,  
 И вокругъ печаль полѣй,—  
 Что спокойнѣй и свѣтлѣй  
 Этой ясной жизни неба?  
 И скажи мнѣ, другъ мой, гдѣ бы  
 Возносилася святѣй  
 Къ благодѣтнымъ тайнамъ неба  
 Сказка легкая полѣй!

## (ii.)

THE earth, the earth, ye men, revere,  
Green secrets of its moistened weeds,  
Its secret ordinance I hear:

—The earth, the earth, ye men, revere,  
E'en its delights, where venom breeds!—  
Earthy, untaught, I hold it dear.  
The earth, the earth, ye men, revere,  
Green secrets of its moistened weeds.

## (iii.)

QUIVERS the heart with joyousness,  
North afresh, return of rain,  
Slender, tender moss again,—  
Despair is one with joyousness  
And torment with a sweet caress,—  
Soft visions of a wooded lane,  
And trembles the soul with joyousness,—  
Beloved North! Beloved rain!

## (iv.)

CHURCH-SPIRE, crucifix, and sky,  
And around, the sorrowing fields,—  
What more peace and radiance yields  
Than this sheen of living sky?  
And, my friend, I would descry  
Where in holier fashion yields  
To the glad secrecies on high  
This soft legend of the fields!

(v.)

Какáя рáдость—по дорóгамъ  
Стопáми гóлыми итти  
И сýмку лéгкую нестí!  
Какáя рáдость—по дорóгамъ,  
Въ смиренíи блáгостномъ и стрóгомъ,  
Стихí пѣвúчíе плестí!  
Какáя рáдость—по дорóгамъ  
Стопáми гóлыми итти!

### 3. ВЪ ЭТОТЪ ЧАСЪ.

Въ этотъ часъ, когда грохóчетъ въ тёмномъ небѣ  
грóзный громъ,  
Въ этотъ часъ, когда въ основáхъ сотрясáется нашъ  
домъ.  
Въ этотъ часъ, когда въ тревóгѣ вся наде́жда, вся  
любóвь,  
И когда сильнѣйшíй дýхомъ безпоко́йно хму́рить  
бровь,  
Въ этотъ часъ стремите в́ше, в́ше гордыя сердца,—  
Наслаждáется побѣдой то́лько вѣрный до концá,  
То́лько тотъ, кто слѣпо вѣрить, хоть судьбѣ на пере-  
кóрь,  
То́лько тотъ, кто въ мать не брóситъ кáмнемъ тягост-  
ный укóрь.



(v.)

WHAT delight,—from place to place  
With uncovered feet to fare  
And a scanty scrip to bear !  
What delight,—from place to place  
With austere and humble grace  
To entwine a tuneful air !  
What delight,—from place to place  
With uncovered feet to fare !

## 3. IN THIS HOUR . . .

IN this hour when darkened skies are by the awful thunder  
    rent,  
IN this hour when shakes our dwelling to its very  
    fundament,  
IN this hour when every hope and every love are in  
    despair,  
When the mightiest in spirit purse the brow in restless  
    care,  
IN this hour your hearts shall rouse them higher, higher  
    in their pride,  
Victory is theirs alone who faithful to the end abide.  
Only theirs who trust with blindness, even though in  
    spite of fate,  
Only theirs who on their mother fling not grievous stones  
    of hate.

## 4.

Злой драконъ, горящій ярко тамъ, въ зенитѣ,  
Протянувшій всюду пламеннія нѣти,  
Опалившій душнымъ зноёмъ всю долину,—  
Злой драконъ, побѣду ты ликуешь рано!  
Я изъ тёмнаго, глубокаго колчана  
Для тебя стрѣлу отравленную вину.

Предъ тобою съ лукомъ стану безъ боязни  
Я, свершитель смѣлый безпощадной казни,  
Я, предсказанный и всё-жъ неожиданный мститель.  
Лукъ тугой стрѣла покинетъ съ мѣднымъ звономъ.  
Ты на вѣзовъ мой отвѣтишь тяжкимъ стономъ,  
Ты померкнешь, ты погибнешь, злой губитель!

## 5.

Этотъ зыбкій туманъ надъ рѣкой  
Въ одинокую ночь, при лунѣ,—  
Ненавистенъ онъ мнѣ, и желаненъ онъ мнѣ  
Тишиною своей и тоской.

Я забылъ про дневную красу,  
И во мглу я тихонько вхожу,  
Еле видимый слѣдъ напряженно слѣжу,  
И печали мой одиноко несу.

## 4.

EVIL dragon, 'mid the zenith hotly burning,  
Thou, who all about thee, fiery threads art turning,  
With a stifling hotness parching all the valley,—  
Evil dragon, lo, too speedy is thy rapture  
O'er thy victory; for, compassing thy capture,  
From my dark, deep quiver, poisoned barbs will sally.

With my bow before thee shall I stand, nor falter,  
Dauntless to fulfil the doom that none can alter;  
Vengeance unforeseen, and yet foretold I cherish.  
Taut, my bow shall fling its shaft with brazen droning.  
To my challenge, thou shalt answer sorely moaning,—  
Foul destroyer, thou shalt wane away and perish.

## 5. ✓

OVER the river the hazes that flow  
'Neath the moon in the lonesome night,  
They beset me with hate, and they bring me delight  
For the stillness thereof and the woe.

Forgotten the beauty of day,  
And thro' mist I stealthily pace,  
A track scarce beheld, in my travail I trace  
And I carry my lonely despair on my way.

## Владиміръ Сергѣевичъ Соловьёвъ

### 1.

Милый другъ, иль ты не видишь,  
Что всё видимое нами—  
Только отблескъ, только тѣни  
Отъ незримаго очами?

Милый другъ, иль ты не слышишь,  
Что житѣйскій шумъ трескучій—  
Только откликъ искаженный  
Торжествующихъ созвучій?

Милый другъ, иль ты не чѣешь,  
Что одно на цѣломъ свѣтѣ—  
Только то, что сердце къ сердцу  
Говоритъ въ нѣмѣхъ привѣтѣ.

### 2.

Земля владычица! Къ тебѣ челѣ склонилъ я,  
И сквозь покровъ благоуханный твой  
Родного сердца пламень ощутилъ я,  
Услышалъ трепеть жизни міровой.  
Въ полуденныхъ лучахъ такою нѣгой жгучей  
Сходила благодать сияющихъ небесъ,  
И блеску тихому несли привѣтъ глѣбучій  
И вольная рѣка, и многошумный лѣсъ.  
И въ явномъ таинствѣ вновь вижу сочетанье  
Земной души со свѣтомъ неземнымъ,  
И отъ огня любви житѣйское страданье  
Уносится какъ мимолѣтный дымъ.

## Vladimir Sergyeyevitch Solovyov

### 1.

FRIEND belovèd, dost thou see not  
That whate'er our gaze embraces,  
Is but a reflex, but a shadow  
Of the things the eye ne'er traces?

Friend belovèd, dost thou hear not  
That the roar of earthly surging  
Is naught but a distorted echo  
Of harmonies in triumph merging?

Friend belovèd, dost thou feel not  
That the world but one thing holdeth—  
What one heart unto another  
With a mute acclaim unfoldeth?

### 2.

O MISTRESS earth! Before thee have I knelt,  
And through the fragrances that thee begird,  
The glowing of a kindred heart I felt,  
The throbbing of a living world I heard.  
In noon-tide beams with such enraptured blaze  
The bounty of the radiant skies was sent,  
With whose still lustre the responsive lays  
Of rippling streams and rustling woods were blent.  
To me the sacrament reveals again  
Earth's soul with the unearthly sheen unite,  
And from the fire of love all earthly pain  
Is borne away like passing smoke in flight.

## 3.

Въ туманѣ́ утреннемъ невѣ́рными шагáми.  
Я шёлъ къ тайнственнымъ и чúднымъ берегáмъ.  
Борóлася заря́ съ послѣ́дними звѣ́здами;  
Ещё́ летáли сны—и схвáченная сна́ми,  
Душá молилася невѣ́домымъ богáмъ.

Въ холóдный бѣ́лый день доро́гой оди́нкой,  
Какъ прѣ́жде, я идú въ невѣ́домой странѣ́.  
Разсѣ́ялся туманъ, и я́сно видить о́ко,  
Какъ тру́денъ го́рный путь, и какъ ещё́ далёко  
Далёко всё, что грéзилось мнѣ́.

И до полу́ночи нерóбкими шагáми  
Всё́ бúду я идтí къ желáннымъ берегáмъ,  
Тудá, гдѣ́ на горѣ́, подъ нóвыми звѣ́здами  
Весь пламенѣ́ющій побѣ́дными огня́ми  
Меня́ дождётся мой завѣ́тный храмъ.

## 4.

У цари́цы моёй есть высóкій дворе́цъ  
О семí онъ столбáхъ золоты́хъ.  
У цари́цы моёй семигран́ный вѣ́нецъ,  
Въ нёмъ безъ счёту камне́й дорогíхъ.

И въ зелёномъ саду́ у цари́цы моёй  
Розъ и ли́лій красá расцвѣ́ла,  
И въ прозра́чной волнѣ́ серебри́стый ручей  
Лóвить óтблескъ кудре́й и челá.



## 3.

AMID the morning hazes, wavering of pace,  
I journeyed to a secret, wonder-laden shore;  
The daybreak strove to quench the straggling starry trace;  
Dreams still were on the wing, and held in their embrace,  
My spirit sought unfathomed godheads to adore.

Upon a lonely journey in a chill, white day,  
Amid unfathomed regions, as of old I fare.  
The hazes now are rent, and clearly I survey  
How hard the upward path, and still how far away,  
How far away is all my dreams laid bare.

But to the midnight hour, unfaltering of pace,  
I still shall journey on, to reach my yearning's shore;  
Yonder on high, beneath another starry trace,  
With fires of victory illumining the place,  
My shrine awaits me with its hallowed store.

## 4

THE court of my empress is lofty of height,  
With seven golden pillars around.  
The crown of my empress is sevenfold bedight,  
With jewels unnumbered 'tis bound.

And in the green garden, my empress' own,  
The roses and lilies bloom fair;  
In the waves of a silvery streamlet is thrown  
The flash of her brow and her hair.

Но не слышнить царица, что шепчет ручей,  
На цвѣты и не взглянетъ она:  
Ей туманить печаль свѣтъ лазурный очей,  
И мечтá ея скорби полна́.

Она видить: далéко, въ полно́чномъ краю,  
Средь морозныхъ тумановъ и вьюгъ,  
Съ злою силою тьмы въ *оди́нчнмъ* бою  
Гибнетъ ёю *поки́нутый* другъ.

И бросаётъ она алма́зный вѣне́цъ,  
Оставляетъ черто́гъ золотой,  
И къ невѣрному дру́гу, нежданнй пришлѣцъ,  
Благодатной стучится руко́й.

И надъ мра́чной зимой молодáя весна́—  
Вся сiяя, склонилась надъ нимъ  
И покрыла его́, тихой ласки полна́,  
Лучезáрнымъ покрóвомъ своимъ.

И низринуты тёмныя сiлы во прахъ,  
Чистымъ пла́менемъ весь онъ горить,  
И съ любовью вѣ́чной въ лазурныхъ очахъ.  
Тихо дру́гу она́ говоритъ:

— „Знаю, во́ля тво́я волнъ морскихъ не вѣрнѣй;  
Ты мнѣ вѣ́рность клялся сохра́нить,—  
Клятвѣ ты измѣ́нилъ,—но измѣ́ной сво́ей  
Могъ ли сѣрдце моё измѣ́нить? . . .“

But my empress ne'er harks to the whispering rill,  
On the blossoms she turns not her gaze:  
And the glow of her eyes in despair has grown chill,  
And grief on her pondering preys.

She beholds: in a midnight domain far away,  
'Mid the chillness of hazes and snow,  
How the gloom's evil powers in a single affray  
Her lover of old overthrow.

And her gem-studded crown from her brow she has torn,  
From her golden-wrought palace she wends;  
Of a sudden, approaching her comrade forsworn,  
Benignant, her hand she extends.

And as o'er the dark winter young spring-tide has cast  
His glow, she in tenderest love  
Has bent herself o'er him, and shielded him fast  
With her glittering shelter above.

As the powers of the gloom in the dust he descries,  
He is kindled with purest of flames;  
And with perishless love in her radiant eyes  
Thus softly her friend she acclaims:

"I know thee inconstant as waves of the sea;  
Thou hast sworn to me trueness alway,—  
Thine oath thou betrayed,—by betrayal of me,  
My heart couldst thou likewise betray?"

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